

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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R 121710Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2021
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT BAGHDAD
USMISSION SINAI
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13242

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PLO, XF, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIETS DISCUSS ARAFAT VISIT TO MOSCOW

SUMMARY: EMBASSY EFFORT TO GET SOVIET VERSION OF ARAFAT
TALKS IN MOSCOW HAS NOT PRODUCED SIGNIFICANT RESULTS.
SOVIETS INDICATE THAT FORM AND TIMING OF PLO PARTICI-
PATION AT GENEVA WAS DISCUSSED, BUT ARE RELUCTANT TO
REVEAL SOVIET COUNSEL TO PLO WITH REGARD TO 242 ACCEPTANCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. MFA N.E. COUNTRIES DEPT. SECOND SECRETARY LEV
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FEDOROVICH VOLOSHIN (SYRIA, LEBANON) GAVE SEPT 12
BRIEFING TO EMBOFF ON ARAFAT VISIT DURING WHICH
VOLOSHIN:

--INDICATED THAT OMISSION OF "FROM VERY
BEGINNING" FORMULA FROM SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF VISIT COULD BE
TAKEN AS ADMISSION THAT FORM OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AT

GENEVA HAD NOT BEEN SETTLED AND THAT THIS GENERAL PROBLEM WAS ONE OF KEY AGENDA ITEMS DURING ARAFAT VISIT. (ON OTHER

HAND N.E. COUNTRIES DEPT. COUNSELOR A.I. FILEV (M.E. PEACE SETTLEMENT) TOLD EMBOFF ON SEPT. 8 THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF OMISSION "FROM VERY BEGINNING" FORMULA SHOULD NOT BE OVERESTIMATED.) ASKED ABOUT REPORTS OF POST-VISIT STATEMENT BY ARAFAT THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT ATTEND GENEVA ABSENCE OF PALESTINIANS, VOLOSHIN ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW SOVIET UNION COULD BE EXPECTED TO TAKE MORE FIRM POSITION THAN ARABS THEMSELVES. ASKED ABOUT IDEA OF TWO STAGE CONFERENCE WITH PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION ONLY FROM SECOND STAGE, VOLOSHIN REPLIED ONLY THAT ALL IDEAS WERE OPEN FOR DISCUSSION;

--STATED THAT SOVIET SIDE HAD DISCUSSED WITH ARAFAT AND HIS DELEGATION SOVIET POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR UNSC 242, AND THAT PALESTINIANS HAD RESPONDED THAT THEY COULD

NOT BE EXPECTED TO GIVE UP TRUMP CARD NOW SIMPLY TO BE ABLE TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH AMERICANS. SOME GUARANTEE (A WORD VOLOSHIN USED REPEATEDLY) OF A SHIFT IN THE ISRAELI POSITION TOWARD THE PLO WOULD BE THE LEAST WHICH THE PALESTINIANS COULD ACCEPT. VOLOSHIN OFFERED AS HIS PERSONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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OPINION THAT ARAFAT AND "THE MAJORITY OF THE PALESTINIANS" WERE NOT OPPOSED TO 242 AS SUCH; THEY SIMPLY HAD TO HAVE SOME MORE TO GO ON. VOLOSHIN

REFUSED TO GIVE DIRECT ANSWER TO QUERY ON SOVIET COUNSEL TO PLO WITH QGARD TO ACCEPTANCE OF 242;

--SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF AMENDING OR SUPPLEMENTING 242 AT THE LAST UNGA HAD NOT BEEN TOUCHED UPON DURING THE ARAFAT VISIT.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS RATHER THIN GRUEL AND WE OF COURSE DO NOT TAKE SUCH SOVIET STATEMENTS AT FACE VALUE. WE SUSPECT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT TACTICS WITH REGARD TO 242 AT FORTHCOMING UNGA WERE INDEED TOUCHED UPON DURING ARAFAT DISCUSSIONS HERE. TOON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, XF, UR, PLO, (ARAFAT)
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